



**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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(South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

PIERRE, S.D. – At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Friday, Sept. 21, 2012, as “POW/MIA Recognition Day,” calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

“While we are grateful to all of those who have served our nation, the 21st of September should be a day we pay special honor to those who, because of their service, have become prisoners of war or are Missing in Action,” the Governor said.

The state of South Dakota continues to support efforts to account for every service member classified as Missing in Action, he said.

“Sept. 21 is a day for all us to remember that freedom is not free. It comes with a price tag,” Gov. Daugaard said.

The Governor encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time on Sept. 21 to honor the POW/MIAs who fought to protect our freedoms and lost theirs, as well as remember those engaged in today's struggle to protect our freedoms for future generations.

“Let us never forget those who have served and are currently serving our nation’s armed services,” added Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “Sept. 21 affords us a great opportunity to reaffirm our pledge to never stop searching and never stop thinking of our lost warriors and their families.”